



Star Trek:
On the Movie Set



Disney:
Secret Future City

FUTURE

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Refueling Station by Vincent DiFate (Portfolio Interview p. 58)



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Imagineering the Future

A sneak preview tour of Walt Disney's Top Secret "Community of Tomorrow"

By ROBIN SNELSON

EPCOT: Experimental Prototype Community of Tomorrow. It has been called Walt Disney's greatest dream. In the ranks of futurists, EPCOT has taken on an almost mysterious quality. Long-anticipated and much talked

"Walt Disney dreamed of a showplace for the concepts of tomorrow that would never be completed," says Card Walker, President of Walt Disney Productions. EPCOT, in Disney's vision, would be "always introducing, testing and demonstrating new ideas, new materials, new systems ... a center for the communication of new con-



Highlight of EPCOT's pavilion of The Seas: a transparent underwater restaurant where you'll be able to feast on the harvest of the oceans surrounded by live marine life.

ART BY TUDOR PECULIERS

about, Disney's nebulously defined future city has been under a cloak of secrecy since its inception.

Just when some were beginning to wonder if EPCOT would ever become reality, Disney executives have announced its opening date: October 1, 1982.

Walt Disney had many dreams. It was his habit to classify them by numbered "master plans." Master Plan 67 became Disneyland. Master Plan 17 is Walt Disney World. EPCOT is Walt Disney's Master Plan 5.

Now EPCOT is officially underway, with at least four major corporations and 10 foreign governments committed to co-developing the expensive and ambitious project, along with Walt Disney Productions.

But according to Master Plan 5, EPCOT will never be finished.

cepts that would always be in a state of becoming."

Another of EPCOT's purposes, according to Walker, is to "give voice to an optimistic future and confidence in the ingenuity of free, enterprising men and women."

Already, Walt Disney World—opened in 1971 and since visited by more than 90 million people—has become a showplace for new technologies. The patented WED-way PeopleMover and 60 mph vacuum trash system amaze Disney World visitors, while behind the scenes, new energy systems, advanced central computer systems, innovative water control and electronic telephone systems are being tested on a daily-use basis.

EPCOT's 200-acre spread, located just a



swift monorail ride away from Disney World in central Florida, will be the largest project ever undertaken by the Disney people. And according to Card Walker, EPCOT visitors will "experience a whole new generation of Disney entertainment—larger in scope and more sophisticated than anything in the history of Disney 'imagineering.'"

Construction will not begin until late 1979, but Disney's Imagineers are hard at work refining concepts and working out thousands of intricate details. Plans have been laid, models constructed, and prototypes are no doubt being built within the



hush-hush confines of WED Enterprises' West Coast laboratories.

Needless to say, all the designs will evolve and change over the next few years, so this sneak preview may well be out of date by the time EPCOT opens its doors. But here's an advance look at current concepts and models for Walt Disney's Experimental Prototype Community of Tomorrow.

A massive golden geodesic dome dominates the entrance to EPCOT, where you buy one "admission media" good for every pavilion and adventure inside.

EPCOT is made up of two parts: Future

World—a showcase for technologies and systems of tomorrow; and World Showcase—an experiment in international co-operation and co-existence, with pavilions representing and run by many countries of the world. The two are connected by The American Adventure.

Spaceship Earth

First stop is inside the giant geodesic dome, which pays homage in both its name and structure to futuristic genius Buckminster Fuller. Inside, there's a theatrical time-machine trip to the past, where you see the first humans who recorded knowledge. Surging forward in time, the volume of

Walt Elias Disney (WED) Enterprises' working model of EPCOT. Spaceship Earth is in the foreground; in the distance World Showcase surrounds the lagoon.

human knowledge explodes . . . until you arrive in the present to see how today's communications technologies are used to process more and more information.

Communicore

The central plaza/marketplace of Future World, Communicore is a futuristic country fair of new ideas. Here you get to experiment with a video bookstore (coming soon to your living room), the Travel Port (dial in

Right: Inside the giant starship of the Space pavilion as visitors travel through interstellar space. Below: Starship from the outside. Exhibits trace the history of spaceflight before you take your own ride to the cosmos.



power satellites, ocean thermal energy conversion and other vast new sources for future power are explored in a fascinating visual presentation.

Transportation

Experimental transportation systems and prototype vehicles of tomorrow are showcased here. Highlight: a series of simulated trips—many at dizzying high speed—onboard present-day modes of transportation.

The Land

Techniques for farming desert, tropics and marshlands are illustrated in a boat cruise which takes you through climate-controlled "biomes." Another biome focuses on the farm of today—and tomorrow. Top the Land pavilion excursion off with a joyous, lifelike celebration (using three-dimensional film and other theatrical effects) of the world's great harvest festivals.

The American Adventure

At the crossroads of EPCOT, gateway between Future World and World Showcase, this giant pavilion traces the history of America from Plymouth Rock to the first step on the Moon. Benjamin Franklin, Mark Twain and Will Rogers lead a cast of American greats as your guides—via Disney's Audio-Animatronics 3-D magic.

World Showcase

A startling variety of architecture surrounds a broad man-made lagoon in the center of World Showcase. Each pavilion represents some nation of the world—and each is staffed by a rotating corps of top young people from that particular nation. Each pavilion features exhibits, adventures, entertainments, merchandise, culture and cuisine of its nation.

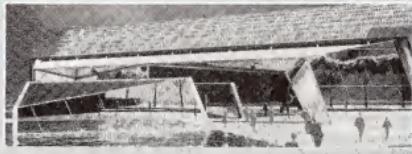
And so ends the first brief look at "Disney's greatest dream."

Already committed to participating in World Showcase are Mexico, Canada, Japan, West Germany, United Kingdom, France, United Arab Emirates, Italy, Israel and Morocco. WED Imagineers are now working with representatives from each country on preliminary design concepts for their pavilions. (For instance, part of the United Arab Emirates pavilion envisions a magic carpet ride with a holographic genie that will take you through a starlit night—and show you early Arabic contributions in the fields of astronomy, navigation and mathematics.)

Exxon, Kraft, General Motors and AT&T are the major corporations enlisted so far to co-develop Future World, and others are expected soon.

You can't buy a ticket until 1982, but EPCOT is on its way. And it promises to be as different from Disneyland and Disney World as those two landmark works of Walt's genius are from the original concept of an amusement park.

If all goes according to Master Plan 5, EPCOT will be an ever-changing showplace for prototype concepts and new ideas. It will be, as Disney envisioned, an ongoing forum of the future.



Exterior of the Energy pavilion: photovoltaic solar cells on the building collect all the energy needed to power the pavilion.

your vacation requirements and sit back to enjoy a tailored travelogue), Future Plan (computer access to immediate information on careers) and Informart Arcade (a flashy penny arcade of the past—updated for the age of information, with computer games that teach while they entertain).

Space

Highlight of the Space pavilion is the 768-passenger starship, designed by Disney Imagineers with help from Ray Bradbury. Ride a 12-story-high gantry to board the interstellar craft. Blasting off, you look out the expansive windows to see EPCOT recede in the distance below. After a quick zoom around Earth, you're off for the reaches of deep space—complete with the simulated sensation of zero-gravity.

The Seas

Take an underwater journey with Poseidon, Lord of the Sea, through the oceans of the world—from the Continental Shelf to the Great Coral Reef. At Sea Base

Alpha, see live marine animals and plants in giant aquariums and have a bite to eat in the futuristic underwater restaurant.

Lif and Health

A *Fantastic Voyage*-like trip through the complex inner workings of the human body, *The Incredible Journey Within*, is the main attraction here. Also, don't miss the You Bet Your Life Midway—a casino setup that imparts valuable information about your health along with the gaming.

Energy

By means of sophisticated solar collectors and photovoltaic solar electric cells designed into its structure, the Energy pavilion produces at least as much energy as it uses. A trip through a primeval forest (where you witness the formation of fossil fuel) is climaxed by a violent energy storm of wind, lightning, rain, fires and volcanic eruptions—all to demonstrate the endless potential of raw energy on Earth. Solar